MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): His final reply has not been received.

Construction of a todu in the Nattakam pakuthi.

239. **MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI** (*Kottayam*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the local inhabitants have made a request to them for the construction of a *todu* through Pallam and Mariapalli in the Nattakam pakuthi of the Kottayam taluk;

(*b*) if so, the action taken in the matter; and

(*c*) whether they will arrange for an enquiry into and report on the need for the expenditure on the construction of the *todu*?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The petition was forwarded to the Chief Engineer.

(*c*) The matter is being investigated.

Maistries of the P. W. Department.

240. **MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI** (*Kottayam*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the maistries of the Public Works Department possess any technical examination qualification;

(*b*) whether they are aware that, as their appointments are temporary, the number of maistries is more than what is required; and

(*c*) if they will enquire whether, in the interests of efficiency, it is necessary to make their appointments permanent?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes; most of the maistries possess technical qualifications.

(*b*) The number of maistries is within the limit of requirements.

(*c*) The Government will consider the matter.

Average area of land available in the State per head.

241. **MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI** (*Kottayam*): Will the Government be pleased to state the average area of land available for enjoyment per head of the population in Travancore, excepting backwaters, forests, *poramboke*s and *tarisu* lands?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): 60·21 cents per head of population.

Registry of lands to members of Depressed Classes in the Kottayam Taluk.

242. **MR. R. RAMAN PILLAI** (*Kottayam*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of applications submitted by members of the depressed classes in 1103, for the registry of lands in the Kottayam taluk;

(*b*) the number of applications submitted in the previous year but pending in 1103;

(*c*) the number of applications granted in 1103 and the area assigned under such applications; and

(*d*) the number of applications rejected and the reasons therefor?

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